

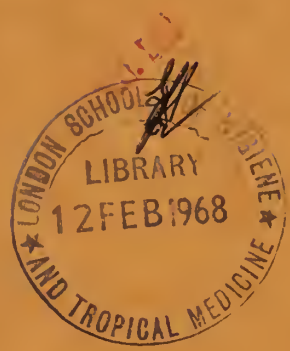
4412 (1)

II

Library



BOROUGH OF FAVERSHAM



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1963

B O R O U G H O F F A V E R S H A M

=====

A N N U A L

R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for

1 9 6 3

J . T . M U R P H Y

M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b2920415x>

CONTENTS

	Page
Faversham Borough Council	3
The Staff of the Public Health Department	4
Section I Statistics and Social Conditions of The Area	7
Section II Vital Statistics	8
Section III Infectious and Other Diseases	13
Section IV General Provision of Health Services	19
Section V Removal of Aged Person	22
Section VI Sanitary Circumstances of The Area	23
Section VII Inspection and Supervision of Food	25
Section VIII General Public Health Works	30
Section IX Housing	34
Section X Factory Administration	36
Section XI Faversham Port Health Authority	39
Appendix "A" Rainfall and Temperature Readings	42

	Page
Appendix "B"	
Public Health Department - Visits	43
Appendix "C"	
Nuisances and Defects Dealt With	45
Appendix "D"	
Flood Lane Slaughterhouse	46
Appendix "E"	
Offensive Trade	48
Appendix "F"	
Fluoridation of Water Supplies	51

FAVERSHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

=====

THE MAYOR

+ Councillor G. C. Ely

THE DEPUTY MAYOR

+ Councillor J. M. Elliott

ALDERMEN

R. S. Amor

+ J. H. Johnson, M.B.E., J.P.

H. Knowles, J.P.

A. A. Salmon, J.P.

COUNCILLORS

P. V. Head

+ B. F. Hoile

+ A. Howland

/ A. L. King

L. G. Toms

R. Webb

+ S. C. Wimble

R. T. Winton

+ D. J. Wood

+ L. H. Wood

TOWN CLERK

F. G. Bishop

(+ Denotes Member of the Health Committee)
(/ Denotes Chairman of the Health Committee)

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

=====

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
to the Borough and Port of Faversham

John T. Murphy, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
To the Borough and Port (Eastern Section) of Faversham

Mr R. A. O. Bampton, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H.H., D.S.A.A.

PORT HEALTH INSPECTOR
Port of Faversham (Western Section)

Mr A. Leslie, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.San.I.

STUDENT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr P. F. Allen

CLERK

Miss J. B. Bushell

ROBENT OPERATOR (PART TIME)

Mr F. Richards

BOROUGH OF FAVERSHAM

Municipal Offices,
July, 1964.

Mr Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for 1963 including a report on the Port Health Area.

The population, 13,340, shows an increase of 210 over the previous year and this is a trend which is likely to accelerate over the next few years in the light of proposals for substantial residential development in the Borough.

The number of births, 253 as against 215 for 1962 (18 per cent increase), reflects the increasing birthrate which has been the pattern for the Country as a whole over the last few years.

The corrected death rate, 12.0 and infant mortality rate 23.7 compares favourably with that of England and Wales which was 12.2 and 20.9 respectively. Six infant deaths occurred within the first year, none of which could be attributed to adverse environmental conditions.

The total number of infectious disease cases notified during the year was 139 an increase of 41 over the previous year. Of the total notified there were 118 cases of measles.

In March the Mass Radiography Unit of the Regional Hospital Board visited the Borough and a total of 4,182 people attended for chest X-ray. This is a free health service which everyone should take advantage of as the treatment of disease is so much easier when there is early diagnosis.

The general investigation and routine inspection work of the Department continues to increase year by year. This is particularly evident from the large amount of foodstuffs, mainly fruit and vegetables, which have been condemned as unfit during 1963.

The offensive trade factories have again received considerable attention from the Department. There is a slow but steady improvement in the methods of condensing the obnoxious vapours and in the overall mechanical condition of the equipment.

I would like to thank the staff of the Health Department for their quiet and efficient work during the year. The nature of my appointment makes it necessary for me to rely upon Mr Bampton, your Senior Public Health Inspector, to control the day to day work of the Department and this he has done quietly and efficiently.

I would also like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued support throughout the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

CLIMATOLOGY

The total rainfall during the year was 26.8 inches as compared with 21.68 inches in 1962 and 21 inches in 1961.

Maximum and Minimum temperatures, together with the rainfall recorded each month, are shown in Appendix "A".

AREA

The Borough of Faversham covers an area of 3,070 acres, and includes the villages of Davington and Preston.

POPULATION

The Registrar General estimated the mid-year population for 1963 as 13,340, an increase of 210 from the estimated population for the previous year, i.e. 13,130.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1963 was 4,870 as compared with 4,815 at the end of 1962. Towards this increase 22 houses were provided by the Council and 61 were constructed privately. During the year 28 houses were demolished. The net increase in habitable houses was 55.

RATEABLE VALUE

£456,130 compared with £176,943 on the 31st December, 1962.

SUM REPRESENTED BY THE PENNY RATE

£1,815 10s. 11d., compared with £711 14s. 6d., for the financial year 1962/63.

SECTION II
VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Legitimate	124 (100)	118 (102)	242 (202)
Illegitimate	5 (9)	6 (4)	11 (13)
<u>TOTALS</u>	129 (109)	124 (106)	253 (215)

BIRTH RATE

The crude birth rate per 1,000 population	18.9	(16.4)
The corrected birth rate	20.8	(17.0)
Rate for England and Wales	18.2	(18.0)

STILL BIRTHS

Number of still births	6	(1)
Number of live and still births	259	(216)
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	19.42	(16.5)
Rate for England and Wales	17.3	(18.1)

INFANT DEATHS

Number of infant deaths (under one year)	6	(4)
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	23.7	(18.6)
Rate for England and Wales	20.9	(20.7)
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	24.8	(19.8)
Illegitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	90.9	(-)
Neo-natal mortality rate (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births	11.8	(18.6)
Number of neo-natal deaths	3	(4)
Early neo-natal mortality rate (first week) per 1,000 live births	11.8	(18.6)

Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births) . 34.7 (23.1)

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS

Number of illegitimate live births 11 (13)
This is 4.5% of total live births.

MATERNAL DEATHS

Number of maternal deaths (including abortion) Nil

DEATHS

Number of deaths assignable to Faversham 239 (237)
The crude death rate per 1,000 population 17.9 (18.0)
The corrected death rate 12.0 (9.9)
Rate for England and Wales 12.2 (11.9)
Average age at death 72.9 (69.6)
Average age at death for males 70.9 (61.1)
Average age at death for females 74.5 (74.8)
Oldest death - female 98 year (96)
Number of deaths at Bensted House assignable to Borough 82 (40)

The following table shows the age groups in which the deaths occurred:

TABLE I

SEX	Und 1	1-25	25+	35+	45+	55+	65+	75+	TOTALS
MALES	3	1	-	1	4	9	32	52	102
FEMALES	3	2	-	2	6	12	20	92	137

Table II shows the number of deaths, births and infant mortality rates since 1954 and Table III the causes of death during 1963 classified by the Registrar General under 36 headings on the abbreviated list of the International Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death.

TABLE II

BIRTHS				DEATHS		INFANT MORTALITY	
Year	Illegitimate births	Total live births	Crude birth rate	No. of deaths	Crude death rate	Total infant deaths	Infant mortality rate
1954	4	198	16.1	220	17.9	3	15.2
1955	5	190	15.4	227	18.4	5	26.3
1956	6	180	14.6	226	21.6	11	61.1
1957	6	223	18.1	258	20.9	8	35.9
1958	5	211	17.1	195	15.8	4	18.9
1959	9	199	16.0	206	16.6	3	15.1
1960	8	236	18.9	233	18.9	6	25.4
1961	8	213	16.4	253	19.7	8	37.5
1962	13	215	16.4	237	18.0	4	18.6
1963	11	253	18.9	239	17.9	6	23.7

TABLE III

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1 (-)	- (1)	1 (1)
2. Tuberculosis, other	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)
3. Syphilitic disease	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
4. Diphtheria	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5. Whooping Cough	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
6. Meningococcal infections	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
8. Measles	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4 (-)	- (1)	4 (1)
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	4 (3)	4 (3)	8 (6)
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	- (-)	4 (9)	4 (9)
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	- (-)	- (2)	- (2)
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms..	9 (15)	12 (13)	19 (28)
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	- (1)	- (2)	- (3)
16. Diabetes	1 (2)	1 (-)	2 (2)
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous system ...	31 (20)	47 (38)	78 (58)
18. Coronary disease, angina	13 (15)	13 (11)	26 (26)
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1 (3)	1 (2)	2 (5)
20. Other heart disease	22 (16)	29 (18)	51 (34)
21. Other circulatory disease	3 (5)	9 (6)	12 (11)
22. Influenza	1 (-)	- (2)	1 (2)
23. Pneumonia	2 (6)	3 (6)	5 (12)
24. Bronchitis	2 (5)	- (6)	2 (11)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system .	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	- (2)	1 (2)	1 (4)
27. Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	- (-)	2 (1)	2 (1)
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
31. Congenital malformations	- (1)	1 (-)	1 (1)
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4 (7)	7 (5)	11 (12)
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1 (3)	1 (1)	2 (4)
34. All other accidents	1 (1)	1 (-)	2 (1)
35. Suicide	1 (1)	1 (-)	2 (1)
36. Homicide and operations of war	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
TOTALS	102 (106)	137 (131)	239 (237)

Particulars in regard to infant deaths occurring during the year are as follows:

TABLE IV

CAUSES OF DEATH	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH
1a Respiratory Distress Syndrome b Prematurity	M	14 hours	Hospital
1a Prematurity II Haemorrhagic Disease of the Newborn	F	3 days	Hospital
1a Respiratory Distress Syndrome b Inhalation of Blood c Haemorrhagic Disease of the Newborn II Mongol	F	6 days	Hospital
1a Recurring Subdural Haemorrhage b Old tears of the Tentorium Cerebelli	F	3 months	Home
1a Pulmonary Oedema b Acute Otitis Media	M	3 months	Home
1a Acute Gastroenteritis	M	7 months	Hospital

SECTION III

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

NOTIFICATION

The number of infectious disease cases notified during 1963 was 139 being 41 more than in the previous year, i.e. 98 cases in 1962.

GENERAL

The age distribution of cases occurring is shown in Table V and total number of infectious diseases occurring and the number admitted to Hospital and total deaths from diseases are shown in Table VI. Table VII gives a resumé of the last ten years.

TABLE V

DISEASE	-1	-5	-15	-20	-30	-40	-50	-60	Over 60	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Dysentery	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	4	77	34	1	-	1	-	-	1	118
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	2	6
Non-Pulmonary	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2

TABLE VI

Disease	No. of Cases 1963 1962		Admission to Hospital or Sanatorium	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	3	8	-	-
Measles	118	76	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-	-
Pneumonia	2	4	-	5
Dysentery	3	1	-	-
Encephalitis	1	-	1	-
Whooping Cough	3	-	-	-
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	6	5	4	1
Non-Pulmonary	2	3	2	-
TOTALS	139	98	7	6

TABLE VII

DISEASE	1954	'55	'56	'57	'58	'59	'60	'61	'62	'63
Scarlet Fever	2	4	7	6	15	9	15	10	8	3
Whooping Cough	107	5	14	202	3	13	29	-	-	3
Measles	4	447	2	74	360	46	12	526	76	118
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	4	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	9	17	18	23	24	27	3	15	4	2
Food Poisoning	1	3	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Incidence and deaths

Six cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year, being one more than in the preceding year.

Two cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

One death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred during the period.

Table VIII shows the number of cases notified and the deaths attributed to Tuberculosis since 1954:

TABLE VIII

YEAR	No. of Primary notifications received		DEATHS		Death rate per 10,000 population	
	PUL.	NON-PUL.	PUL.	NON-PUL.	PUL.	NON-PUL.
1954	6	-	4	-	3.3	-
1955	1	-	2	-	0.8	-
1956	11	1	-	-	-	-
1957	4	1	1	-	0.8	-
1958	4	-	-	-	-	-
1959	8	1	-	-	-	-
1960	5	-	-	-	-	-
1961	3	1	-	-	-	-
1962	5	3	1	1	0.8	0.8
1963	6	2	1	-	0.75	-

Mass Radiography Unit

At the end of March the Mass Radiography Mobile Unit of the Regional Hospital Board visited the Borough.

Details of the examinations are as follows:

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
(a) Number of persons attending	1,971	2,211	4,182
(b) Results:			
Active Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Inactive Tuberculosis	10	15	25
Cancer of Lung	1	-	1

The number of volunteers who attended the Unit's centres for the first time was 39.6% of the total number of attendances.

Tuberculosis Register

The number and types of cases at present in the Borough and on the Tuberculosis Register are shown in Table IX

TABLE IX

	<u>PULMONARY</u>		<u>NON-PUL</u>		<u>TOTALS</u>
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
On Tuberculosis Register 1/1/63	34	19	4	5	62
Notified in Borough	4	2	2	-	8
Trans.to Borough	4	2	-	-	6
Trans. from Borough	1	2	-	1	4
Deaths	1	-	-	-	1
Recovered	1	4	1	-	6
Balance remaining on Register 31/12/63	39	17	5	4	65

Clinic Attendance

I am indebted to Dr O. Clarke, for the following particulars regarding patients from the Borough:

- (a) Number of patients from the Borough of Faversham who attended the Chest Clinic during 1963 (this includes contacts etc.) 306
- (b) Total number of attendances during the year by patients (including child contacts) in (a) above 437
- (c) Number of patients from the Borough who received Sanatorium treatment during the year 8

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Vaccination Against Poliomyelitis

The County Medical Officer reports that during the period the following have received vaccination against Poliomyelitis:

TABLE X

YEAR OF BIRTH	TWO INJECTIONS (SALK)	THREE INJECTIONS (SALK and ORAL)	FOUR INJECTIONS (SALK and ORAL)	THREE ORALS COM- PLETE COURSE
1963	27	1	-	15
1962	1	13	-	108
1961	2	22	-	24
1957-60	2	4	-	13
1943-56	-	-	-	5
1933-42	-	6	-	8
Others	-	10	91	9

Tables XI and XII show the diphtheria immunisation, whooping cough immunisation and smallpox vaccination figures for 1963, based on returns submitted to the County Medical Officer:

TABLE XI

Year of Birth	Diphtheria Immunisation		Whooping Cough Immunisation
	Primary	Reinforcing	Primary
1963	97	Nil	97
1962	98	28	97
1961	8	100	8
1960	3	39	2
1959	1	11	Nil
1954-58	3	82	1
1949-53	Nil	3	Nil
TOTALS	210	263	205

TABLE XII

Primary Vaccination 1 Year	Re-Vaccination School Age but Under 8 years
41	Nil

SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Local Authority Health Services under the National Health Service Act are provided and administered by the Kent County Council. These services include the Care of Mothers and young children, the provision of Midwives, Health Visiting and Home Nursing, Vaccination and Immunisation, Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care, and Domestic Help Services.

Chest Clinics and the care of Tuberculosis patients are the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, as also is Mental Welfare.

Various Clinics in connection with these Services are held as follows:

Clinics and Sessions

(a) <u>Queen's Hall</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
Child Welfare	Tuesday and Friday	2 - 4 p.m.
(Immunisation and Vaccination are carried out at the Child Welfare Clinic on Friday afternoon, if required)		
(b) <u>School Clinic</u>		
<u>Solomon's Lane</u>		
Ante-Natal Clinic and Relaxation Classes	Friday.....	2 - 4 p.m.
Minor Ailment Clinic	(Wednesday (2nd & 4th (Wed. of month	3.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Dental Gas Clinic	Tuesday.....	10.30 - 12 noon
Dental	(Tuesday	1.30 - 4 p.m.
	(Thursday.....	9.30 - 12 noon
		1.30 - 4.00 p.m.

(c) Chest Clinic

South Road Thursday (by appointment)

Cases for X-ray are referred to Canterbury Chest Clinic as and when required.

(d) Domestic Help

Application can be made at the Kent County Welfare Office at 44 East Street, Faversham, Monday - Friday.

(e) Psychiatric Clinic

This Clinic is held every Thursday at 5.0 p.m. Appointments are made through St Augustine's Hospital.

SCHOOL HEALTH

The following is a summary of the returns for 1963 for the area comprising the Boroughs of Faversham and Queenborough, the Urban Districts of Sheerness and Sittingbourne and Milton Regis and the Rural Districts of Sheppey and Swale.

Medical Inspection

- (a) Number of children inspected (periodic inspection) 4,956
(b) Number found to require treatment 798
(c) Percentage requiring treatment 14.5%

Classification of General Condition of Pupils

No. of Pupils Inspected	ROUTINE SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTIONS			
	Physical Condition of Pupils inspected			
	Satisfactory		Un-satisfactory	
	No. (2)	% of Col.1 (3)	No. (4)	% of Col 1 (5)
(1)				
4,956	4,953	99.9	3	0.1

Dental Inspection and Treatment

- (a) Number of children inspected 4,161
- (b) Number found to require treatment 2,541
- (c) Percentage requiring treatment 61.0%

Infestation with Vermin

- (a) Total number of examinations in the schools by the School
Nurses or other authorised persons 10,158
- (b) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested .. 103
- (c) Number of individual pupils in respect of which cleansing
notices were issued (Section 54 (2) Education Act, 1944) 8

SECTION V

REMOVAL OF AGED PERSON

National Assistance Act, 1948

Section 47

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951

Under the above Act, an aged person was removed to Linton Hospital, Linton, Nr Maidstone on the 28th August, 1963.

SECTION VI

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

There have been no major extensions or renewals to the water main within the Borough during the past year. Small extensions of the supply were provided for private, residential and Council estate development.

The Faversham Water Company has now gone out of existence and the local supply is provided by the Mid-Kent Water Company.

Sixteen water samples taken during the year were reported as of good bacteriological quality. Two samples subjected to chemical examination were also reported as satisfactory.

A sample of water submitted to the laboratory for the purpose of ascertaining the fluoride content was reported as 0.05 part per million.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE

The work on the comprehensive Bysing Wood drainage scheme was virtually completed during the year. The object of the scheme is to provide sewage facilities for a part of the Borough which is suitable for residential and industrial development. Following the agreements regarding trade waste discharge by the various trading companies concerned, and the completion of their pretreatment works, the Borough Council will accept their effluent into the sewage system. This will be the result of a survey being carried out by the Council's consulting engineers into the whole problem of trade waste in the Borough.

The village of Oare will be connected to the Borough Council's sewers in 1964.

At the end of the year the Borough Council were placing for tender the construction of a new Ejector Station at Quay Lane, with ancillary sewers and pipe works, to replace the old existing station.

Blockages and defects which have arisen in private sewers and drains during the year resulted in many complaints to the Department and in all 181 visits were made to private premises.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The responsibility for refuse collection and disposal rests with the Borough Engineer and Surveyor. The tipping of refuse was continued into the disused working of the Ace Sand and Gravel Company near Ham Road. This method of tipping into water causes special difficulties to arise particularly controlling the tipping area and also preventing contamination of other ponds in the area. The new tractor vehicle has been obtained, and the control of the tipping is now substantially improved with the subsequent reduction of any nuisance which has from time to time occurred when dealing with the many varied types of trade waste accepted by the Borough Council.

The paper sack scheme which was started in 1961 has been continued and it is proposed to extend this scheme in an adjacent section of the Borough during the course of this financial year. The collection service has been working satisfactorily, and the collection of salvage continues in like manner.

The department took delivery of a new gulley emptier during the course of the year, and this improved this service - both in quantities removed and reduction of the cost.

SCHOOL SANITATION

No complaints have been received during the course of the year regarding the sanitary accommodation in schools within the Borough.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The public conveniences are maintained and supervised by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, and the existing arrangements have all been maintained.

HOP PICKERS CAMPS

It is estimated that some 200 people resided at the two hop pickers camps in the Borough during the hop picking season this year. The numbers continue to decrease each year.

MORTUARY ACCOMMODATION

Mortuary accommodation is available at the Faversham Cottage Hospital when required.

SECTION VII

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK

There are three premises in the Borough registered as dairies - two with pasteurisation plants. These are supervised by the Kent County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority for this area.

The number of premises registered for the distribution of milk was thirty-one, an increase of one over the previous year.

Twenty five samples of milk submitted for analysis were reported as satisfactory.

MEAT

The plans for the modernisation of the slaughterhouse in Flood Lane have not been put into effect and the premises remain closed.

It now seems unlikely that the slaughterhouse will ever be used again as such.

See appendix "D" for a special report on the slaughterhouse.

OTHER FOODS

The various foodstuffs condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption were as follows:

- (a) 441 tins assorted foodstuffs
- (b) 114 lbs corned beef;
12 lbs pork luncheon meat;
1 forequarter lamb;
1 ox liver;
3 pigs plucks;
11 lbs veal;
1 lb beef suet.
- (c) 20 lbs prawns;
3 boxes prawns.

- (d) 14 cwt Spanish oranges;
68 cartons oranges;
2,359 boxes apricots;
263 trays peaches;
2,142 boxes melons;
73 trays Turkish grapes;
1,074 bags carrots;
2,711 nets carrots;
112 boxes lettuces;
385 sacks Spanish potatoes.
- (e) 30 boxes Vermicelli
- (f) 10 frozen chicken;
215 assorted packets frozen foods;
241 packets frozen fish;
115 packets frozen fish fingers;
104 packets frozen meats;
520 packets frozen vegetables;
64 - $\frac{1}{2}$ lb ice cream;
4 frozen chocolate nut sandwiches.
- (g) 3 jars chicken.

With the continued expansion of the local fruit and vegetable packing industry more demands are being made upon the Department to inspect and certify the condition of large quantities of foodstuffs.

The inspections deal mainly with imported fruit and vegetables which, following transportation hold-ups and for various other reasons, are sent to East Kent Packers for sorting and repacking.

In addition to the actual quantities certified as unfit as above, verbal opinion is given on other considerable consignments.

Difficulties are being experienced by the company in disposing of the waste because of the way it quickly decomposes and becomes liquid mass.

PREPARATION OF PRESERVED FOODS

Thirty-nine premises are registered for the purpose of fish frying, sausage manufacture, cooking of hams, etc.

ICE CREAM

In all sixty-three premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. The ice cream is all pre-packed.

BAKEHOUSES

During the year one bakehouse ceased production and there are now four premises left in the Borough. The conditions at two of the bakehouses are very cramped and it seems unlikely that they will be able to continue in face of the fierce competition from large multiple bakeries.

MARKET STALLS

In May, in addition to the usual stalls on the Market Place, a stall was opened up for the sale of meat. The sale of meat in this manner contravened several of the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations in the way in which it was being displayed, stored and sold.

The owner of the stall was interviewed and a report was submitted to the Public Health Committee. After being at the Market for three weeks the stall ceased operations.

SHELLFISH

There are six premises in the Borough which are used as bases for the sale of shellfish in this and other districts mainly at the weekends. Complaints are received from time to time about the cooking of shellfish at these premises.

Four samples of shellfish were submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological tests

FOOD PREMISES

The following table shows the premises where food is sold or handled:

TABLE XIII

PREMISES	NUMBER
Butchers and Pork Butchers	13
Grocers	15
Fishmongers	4
Fish Fryers	5
Bakers and Confectioners	17
Greengrocers	13
Dairies	3
Caf�s and Teashops	10
Hotels	3
General Shops	38
Ice Cream Premises	63
Preserved Foods	34
TOTAL	218

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The following details of samples taken in the District under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 are supplied by courtesy of the Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Kent County Council.

<u>ARTICLE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
American Lard	1
Apricot Jam	1
Argentine Beef	1
Aspirin Tablets	1
Beans in Rich Tomato Sauce	1
Bitter Beer	1

ARTICLENUMBER

Black Cherry Jam	1
Blackcurrant Flavour Cordial	1
Brands AI Sauce	1
Buccaline Berna	1
Cauliflower	1
Cheese Spread	1
Cornish Ice Cream	1
Creamed Oatmeal Porridge	1
Custard Powder	1
English Cheshire Cheese	1
Fluoride Toothpaste	1
Gin	2
Ice Cream	1
Lettuce	1
Milk	25
Minced Beef	1
Mixed Pickles	1
Pernivit Tablets	1
Pineapple Tit-bits	1
Pure Dairy Cream	1
Rice Crispies	1
Rum	2
Sandwich Spread	1
Spanish Rice	1
Tea	1
Teoquil Dusting Powder	1
Vinegar	1

SUMMARY of samples

Milks	25
Drugs	5
Spirits	4
Other samples	25
 TOTAL	 59

With the exception of the following all samples taken by the County Sampling Officer were genuine:

SAMPLE OF	- Apricot Jam
ANALYSIS	- Contained a triangular piece of glass
ACTION TAKEN	- As this was an imported article legal proceedings were not taken. The importers and the exporters were warned.

SECTION VIII

GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH WORKS

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

There were only three cases of scarlet fever this year and visits were made to advise on disinfection procedure.

The three cases of dysentery were investigated but it is not thought that the source of infection came from within the Borough.

Seven visits were paid to verminous premises - one bed bug and six flea infestations. The premises were treated with DDT spray and lindane smoke tablets.

A total of thirty-four wasps nests were dealt with during 1963 compared with six in 1962.

RODENT CONTROL

The part time services of the rodent operator have been available again during the year and two-hundred and eighty-seven visits were made in connection with the survey and treatment of rodent infestations both at residential and factory premises. Sewer treatments were carried out in all parts of the Borough.

Table XIV shows the particulars of the inspections and treatments.

TABLE XIV

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority	Dwelling house	Agricultural	All other including business premises	Total
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's district	23	4,848	17	447	5,335
2. Number of Properties inspected by Local Authority	19	166	-	59	244
3. Number of Properties inspected found to be infested by rats	10	83	-	38	131
4. Number of Properties inspected found to be infested with mice	2	69	-	14	85
5. Number of Properties treated by Local Authority	12	152	-	52	215

OFFENSIVE TRADES

The three factories grouped at Oare Creek continue to occupy much inspection time and during the year one-hundred and fifty-five visits were made.

The factories by the very nature of end products and raw materials are always a potential source of nuisance and it is essential that the cooking and condensing equipment should be maintained and run to as high

an efficiency factor as possible. This, unfortunately, is not always the case.

During the period of intense cold at the beginning of the year the water supplies to the condenser plants at the two bone boiling factories froze up. Water is essential to the condenser units and several complaints were received at this time.

In March following advice by the Council to one of the factory owners a Manager took up full time duties. An improvement in the hygienic condition of this factory has been evident from this time.

A number of improvements to the factory equipment took place in May when a new boiler was installed, exhaust gases were connected to the fireboxes and a concrete reservoir to provide a reserve of water was built.

At the other bone boiling factory new rotor arms were fitted to the cookers by means of which steam can be injected right into the basic material. This system reduces the cooking time considerably.

In July a special report was submitted to the Council, see Appendix "E", on one of these factories.

The close supervision and inspection of these factories is a necessary but unenviable and unrewarding task. The residents in the area only remember the times when nuisance is caused, no comment is made during the major part of the year when the factories give no cause for complaint.

LICENSED PREMISES

In 1960 a substantial report was submitted to the Council on the defects and shortcomings of the licensed premises within the Borough.

During 1963 a total of ninety-four visits were made principally to ascertain the progress being made by the brewers and tenants on the necessary repairs and improvements. The slow and steady progress of the previous year has been maintained.

PETROLEUM

In January and February the annual routine licensing inspections were carried out of all the premises where petroleum is stored in the

Borough. The inspections were made in company with the Fire Prevention Officer of the Kent Fire Brigade.

A number of minor defects and contraventions were observed and written notices were sent to all the owners concerned.

Three premises were licensed for the storage of carbide of calcium.

FIREWORKS

During the firework season ten inspections of premises were made where fireworks were being stored and sold. All the premises checked were satisfactory.

SHOPS ACTS

During the year four informal notices were served on the occupiers of shops for defects of general nature.

HOME SAFETY EXHIBITION

In August a Home Safety Exhibition was held in the Council Offices. The Department provided a stand at the exhibition with the theme of 'Health Safety in the Home'. A variety of exhibits were displayed and the stand evoked a lot of interest and comment from visitors.

RAG SORTING BUSINESS

In September a rag sorting business suddenly commenced operations in premises situated in the centre of the town. The Manager was interviewed and two weeks later the firm ceased operations as suddenly as they had began.

SECTION IX

HOUSING

1. The following is a summary of action taken under the Housing and Public Health Acts during the year:

(a)	Inspections of dwelling-houses for housing defects	83
(b)	Number of houses found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation	81
(c)	Number of houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense	9
(d)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied by informal action	47
(e)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal orders	3
(f)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	-
(g)	Number of houses demolished by formal action	28
(h)	Number of houses closed under Section 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	1
(i)	Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957	-

2. APPLICATION FOR IMPROVEMENT AND CONVERSION GRANTS

Forty-five schemes were submitted and approved, for which £12,190 was approved for grant under the discretionary scheme.

Twenty-six standard grants were made to a total cost of £3,705 for twenty-six dwellings.

3. PROVISION OF HOUSES

The following table shows the number of houses built each year since 1946.

TABLE XV

YEAR	COUNCIL HOUSES		POLICE HOUSES	PRIVATE ENTERPRISE	TOTAL
	Temporary	Permanent			
1946	50	-	-	1	51
1947	-	18	-	5	23
1948	-	53	-	10	63
1949	-	71	5	10	86
1950	-	61	-	11	72
1951	-	80	2	8	90
1952	-	66	-	7	73
1953	-	60	-	10	70
1954	-	72	5	3	80
1955	-	80	-	8	88
1956	-	52	-	5	57
1957	-	62	-	24	86
1958	-	42	-	26	68
1959	-	52	-	11	63
1960	-	38	-	41	79
1961	-	26	-	76	102
1962	-	14	-	102	116
1963	-	22	-	61	83
TOTALS	50	869	12	419	1,350

SECTION X

FACTORY ADMINISTRATION

Particulars in respect of Factory administration are shown in the form prescribed by the Minister, as follows:

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTION for the purpose of provisions as to health

PREMISES	NUMBER OF			
	Number on Register	Inspection s	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sec. 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	4	1	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	115	17	4	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (including out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	119	18	4	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

PARTICULARS	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M.
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	2
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(SECTION 110)

Nature of work (1)	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecut- ions for failure to supply lists (4)
Wearing Apparel - Making etc.	1	-	-
All others	-	-	-
Totals	1	-	-

Section III - Nil return

SECTION XI

FAVERSHAM PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

There has been no alteration during the year in the area of the Port which for the sanitary administration is divided into two sections, viz, (a) The Eastern Section (Faversham Creek) and (b) The Western Section (Milton Creek).

Section I - Staff

No change

Section II - Amount of Shipping entering the district during the year:

SHIPS FROM	NUMBER	TONNAGE	NUMBER INSPECTED		Number of Ships reported as having or having had during voyage infectious disease aboard
			M.O.H.	P.H.I.	
(1) EASTERN SECTION					
(a) Coastwise	426	73,080	Nil	5	Nil
(b) Foreign	46	10,116	Nil	4	Nil
(c) Lighters and Barges	2	285	Nil	2	Nil
(2) WESTERN SECTION					
(a) Coastwise	489	37,804	1	6	Nil
(b) Foreign	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Lighters and Barges	75	6,942	1	6	Nil
TOTALS	1,038	128,227	2	23	Nil

Section III - Character of Shipping and Trade during the year

(1) Passenger traffic Nil

(2) Cargo traffic

(a) EASTERN SECTION

Principal Imports Petrol, Crude Oil,
Grain, Timber and
Fertilizers

Principal Exports Nil

(b) WESTERN SECTION

Principal Imports China Clay, Beans,
Tomato Puree and
Ballast

Principal Exports Paper

(3) Principal Ports from which Ships arrive:

(a) EASTERN SECTION

Coastwise Thames Estuary

Foreign Rotterdam, Antwerp
Ymiden, Bremen,
Vlaardingen

(b) WESTERN SECTION

Coastwise London and Bright-
lingsea

Foreign Nil

Section IV - Inland Traffic

Nil

Section V - Water Supply

No change

Section VI - Public Health (Ships Regulations) 1952

No change

Section VII - Smallpox

No change

Section VIII - Venereal Diseases

No change

Section IX - Cases of notifiable and other Infectious Diseases dealt with during the year

Nil

Section X - Malaria

Nil

Section XI - Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for Plague

Nil

Section XII - Measures against rodents in ships from Foreign Ports

Nil

Section XIII - Inspection of Ships for Nuisances

No nuisances were found on ships during the year

Section XIV - Public Health (Shellfish Regulations)

No change

Section XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens

No change

Section XVI - Arrangements for burial on shore of persons who have died on board from infectious disease

No change

APPENDIX "A"

Readings recorded at the Borough Sewerage Works

Month	Rainfall (inches)		Temperatures (degrees F.)			
	1963	1962	Maximum		Minimum	
			1963	1962	1963	1962
January	1.15	2.72	39	53	8	25
February	1.07	0.62	42	52	15	27
March	3.34	1.95	59	60	18	22
April	2.3	1.7	72	69	30	32
May	2.38	2.09	74	73	35	33
June	2.65	0.19	82	82	47	34
July	1.86	1.96	85	81	43	43
August	3.00	2.45	81	80	43	44
September	2.22	1.77	77	80	43	40
October	1.38	1.7	67	75	39	30
November	4.69	2.54	60	56	30	25
December	0.76	1.99	47	55	15	14

APPENDIX "B"

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - VISITS

PUBLIC HEALTH

Complaints re houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Other complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Port Health Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	155
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Hop Pickers' Camps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	181
Shops (non food)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Miscellaneous P.H. Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	112

HOUSING

Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Rent Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20

FOOD PREMISES

Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dairies and Milk Distributors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Market Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23

Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Wholesalers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Miscellaneous Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86

FACTORIES

With Power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

GENERAL

Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	287
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Fireworks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

SAMPLES

Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Shellfish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

	Public Health Act	Housing Acts	Food & Drugs Act	Shops Act	Factories Act
Informal Notices served	34	-	24	4	4
Informal Notices complied with	31	-	20	5	4
Statutory notices served	3	-	-	-	-
Statutory notices complied with	3	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX "C"

The following statement shows the various types of nuisances and defects dealt with:

HOUSING

Roofs	9
Eaves gutters	7
Walls	23
Ceilings	11
Floors	6
Stairs	3
Coppers, ranges and fireplaces	3
W.C.'s repaired	5
Sinks and wastepipes	2
Drainage	33
Verminous houses	7

FOOD PREMISES

Dustbins	10
Food Protection	4
First Aid Kits	2
Notices	3
Walls, floors and ceilings	8
W.C.'s repaired	7
Basins installed	4
Hot water systems provided	10
Clothes lockers provided	2
Tables, etc. repaired	-
Sinks renewed	6
Sinks installed	2
Miscellaneous	13

PUBLIC HEALTH

Accumulations removed	3
Moveable dwellings	15
Streams cleared	1
Miscellaneous	34

APPENDIX "D"

SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958

FLOOD LANE SLAUGHTERHOUSE

Report by the Senior Public Health Inspector

The Slaughterhouse Act, 1958 required the Local Authority to review, consult with interest bodies and report to the Minister on:-

- (a) the existing and probable future requirements of their district for slaughterhouse facilities having regard to the need of persons requiring the use of such facilities and other persons;
- (b) the slaughterhouse facilities which would become available to meet those requirements.

At that time, as instructed in the Act, a wide body of interested parties were consulted by letter and personal approach.

It was found that the local butchers obtained their supplies of home killed meat in two ways -

1. By purchase of dressed carcasses from wholesalers (mainly used by branches of multiple firms).
2. By purchase of live animals from markets or farms for killing and dressing in the local slaughterhouse.

In particular the syndicate of Faversham butchers who ran the Flood Lane slaughterhouse considered they obtained a better quality carcass by using the second method.

Following the Report to the Minister, which included a summary of works or facilities needed to enable the existing slaughterhouse to comply with the construction regulations, the Faversham Butchers Association decided to carry out the necessary works. Plans were submitted for the Council's consideration but ultimately the estimated cost of the works proved too great for the Association.

The premises were then sold to a firm which had the financial resources to carry out the works. In order to obtain a return on

their capital outlay the firm submitted proposals for increasing the throughput of the slaughterhouse some four times. Facilities for local butchers would be retained. Further plans were submitted by the new owners which, if carried out would adequately satisfy the Slaughterhouse Construction Regulations.

While negotiations were going on the existing licence of the Flood Lane Slaughterhouse lapsed and an application has now been received for the grant of a "new" licence to the present owners.

As instructed in Minute 222/63 we have, as far as possible in the time available, obtained information as to the current need for the proposed slaughterhouse.

The branches of multiple firms continue to obtain supplies from central depots and distributors and there is no change in this direction. Two additional supermarkets are now selling meat obtained from central depots.

The individual Faversham butchers now obtain their supplies in various ways. One purchases live animals in the market as before but now has to transport them to Sandwich and back for slaughtering. Another sends his to Teynham and Sittingbourne for killing. A third has his killed at Doddington. Others purchase from wholesalers or use Canterbury Abattoir.

In general the attitude of the local individual butchers has not changed they would still like to have local killing facilities available. One has gone so far as to say that if the Flood Lane premises are not to be re-opened he proposes to submit an application for a licence to build his own slaughterhouse in the Ospringe area. It is also felt that other butchers from adjacent villages would make use of the facilities if available.

3rd April, 1965.

APPENDIX "E"

OFFENSIVE TRADE

Report by the Senior Public Health Inspector

The factory carries on the trades of bone boiler, tallow melter, fat melter and fat extractor, all of which are scheduled as offensive trades within definition of the Public Health Act, 1936, and are subject to the byelaws for offensive trades within the Borough of Faversham.

A broad outline of the sequence and method of treating the raw materials is as follows:

The basic material, which is collected from butchers shops, food factories and slaughterhouses, consists of bones, fat, waste meats. The main collection is carried out in the London area but a small collecting round is made locally.

The materials, packed in drums and sacks, arrive at the factory by road. The lorries back into the two covered unloading bays and the materials are then carried by elevator up to the cooker loading bay. There are normally four cookers working, the operational side is so arranged that three cookers are under steam pressure and the other being emptied and filled.

The cooking time may be from 1 - 3 hours according to the type of basic material in the cooker. At the end of this time the door at the base of the cooker, in the cooker room, is opened and the tallow and greaves are discharged into hoppers. The free tallow is run into the storage tank and finally the remaining liquid is spun out of the greaves by electrical spinners (two).

The dry greaves may then either be sent untreated to another factory or ground down in the grinding mill which is situated in a room at the end of the factory. The ground material may be used in animal feeding stuffs or as a basic fertilizer.

The vapours, which are given off from the cookers, are treated in a condensing plant. The sequence of condensing at this factory is that the vapour is drawn into a large water scrubbing chamber by an extractor fan. The vapour is made to zig-zag through this chamber by baffle walls while jets of water are sprayed down from roof level. The remaining vapour then goes into a secondary condenser which consists of a long cigar shaped metal cylinder which has tubes of circulating cold water inside. Finally any remaining gases then pass into the boiler heating chamber,

where they are subjected to intense heat and in theory are burnt. The water for both the main and secondary condensers is obtained from the dyke which runs along the boundary of the factory. A concrete sump has been constructed recently below a small pump house which is being built near the dyke.

The factory was inspected on the 8th July, 1963 in order that the members of the Health Committee might have an up to date report to assist in the consideration of the item on the Agenda dealing with the issue of the licence.

- (a) The unloading bays were in a clean condition, the walls were whitewashed to a height of about six feet. The floor was clean and covered by sawdust, no maggots were seen.
- (b) The basic materials stored in the cooker loading bay were not in a good condition, the explanation given by the Manager was that the ignition system on the oil burner (boiler) had failed on Friday and could not be righted for some twelve hours. This had resulted in a pile up of materials which would normally have been dealt with before the week-end. Fly spray and disinfectant had been sprayed over the material and floor.
- (c) Only three cookers are being used at present as one has become completely unserviceable. Two cookers were therefore under steam pressure and one was being filled. There was also some doubt as to whether the replacement boiler which had recently been installed was capable of supplying a head of steam sufficient to keep three cookers going at the same time.
- (d) The condenser plant appeared to be working satisfactorily, water was circulating and there were no telltale signs of condenser inefficiency. There was a small steam leak around the extract fan which the Manager said was being dealt with.
- (e) The filtering media on the sewage treatment plant on which work started several weeks ago has not been renewed or washed and replaced as the case may be. There was no satisfactory explanation for this delay, although it must be remembered that this plant has no effect on the efficiency of the condensers which are the primary consideration of the Department.

- (f) There has been a small amount of site clearance, i.e., empty drums and waste materials, but arrangements which the Management are said to have made with a local scrap merchant to clear a quantity of drums had not come to fruition. A small quantity of drums and sacks are being dumped on the Council's tip weekly, by arrangement with the Borough Surveyor.
- (g) Within the vicinity of the factory, apart from the cooker loading bays, the level of smell was reasonable.

9th July, 1963.

APPENDIX "F"

FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

Report by the Medical Officer of Health

Investigations in the United States of America have shown that children born and brought up in areas where about one part per million of fluoride is naturally present in the water have 60 per cent less dental decay than children brought up in areas where the water has only a trace of Fluoride. There is strong evidence too that the benefit persists well into middle age. Independent investigations in the United Kingdom, and in many other Countries, supported the American findings.

In 1945 studies were begun in the U.S.A. and Canada on the effect of adding one part per million fluoride to public water supplies. In 1952 a Mission was sent from the United Kingdom to the U.S.A. and Canada to study the results, and on a report of the Mission three trial areas were set up in Britain, viz. at Watford, Anglesey and Kilmarnock.

Following the success of these trials the Minister of Health has issued Circular 28/62 to Local Health Authorities stating that he is ready to approve, under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the making of arrangements with Water Undertakings for the addition of fluoride to water supplies which are deficient in it naturally. A copy of the Circular has been sent to your Authority for information.

The condition of children's teeth has deteriorated considerably in the post-war years and prevention of this appears to be the only rational procedure as treatment cannot reverse the process of decay.

Opposition of fluoridation comes from the Housewives League, the Pure Water Association and the Anti-Vaccination League, mainly on the grounds that (1) compulsory medication is wrong and (2) insufficient is known about the chronic toxicity of fluoride.

This is of the same pattern as the opposition in the past to chlorination of Public Water Supplies; Pasteurisation of Milk and Immunisation against Diphtheria.

However the Ministry of Health states that no health hazard has been found where the concentration of fluoride is one part per million, and I am adding the Summary of Conclusions of the Research Committee -

"No harmful effects from the addition of one part per million of fluoride to drinking water have been demonstrated in any of the extensive medical evidence collected and reviewed by the Research Committee.

The Research Committee is of the same opinion, therefore, as the World Health Organisation's Expert Committee on Water Fluoridation, which, in 1958, reported 'The most convincing evidence of the safety of water fluoridation comes from the numerous population groups (three million in the U.S.A., 0.5 million in England) who have drunk naturally fluoridated water containing one part per million, or more during their lifetime. In these groups water drinking has been, of course, uncontrolled and there have been well and ill babies, as well as healthy young adults and frail elderly people. Medical practitioners and specialists in these areas have never detected or defined a systematic aberration in health of any kind related to the fluoride consumed'.

After detailing the more important evidence the World Health Organisation's Expert Committee concludes 'All these findings fit together in a consonant whole that constitutes a great guarantee of safety - a body of evidence without precedent in public health procedures!."

The Ministry's Research Committee agrees with these conclusions. In its opinion the raising of the fluoride content of drinking water to a level of one part per million is safe.

18th January, 1963.